

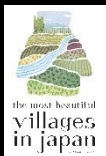
# 3 reasons a few lucky travelers do

1. The nearest train station is more than a half hour away by bus.
2. Nakagawa is not listed in overseas guidebooks.
3. People in Nakagawa aren't used to international travelers.

A few more reasons  
**hotsprings****Koisago**  
**Pottery****theBato**  
**Hiroshige****MuseumofArt**  
**pufferfish****small town**  
**Japanwildboaronlyin**  
**Nakagawashopping**

👉 for more reasons, see inside

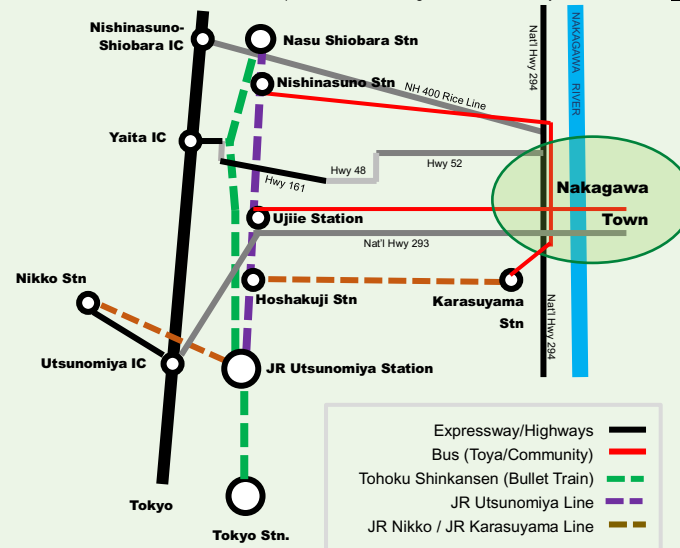
Nakagawa's Koisago District was selected as one of the 'most beautiful villages in Japan'



## Q: Where in the world is Nakagawa Town?

A: in Tochigi Prefecture\*, about 2 hours northeast of Tokyo

(\*there's another Nakagawa in Fukuoka on Kyushu Island—that's not us!)



## GETTING TO NAKAGAWA

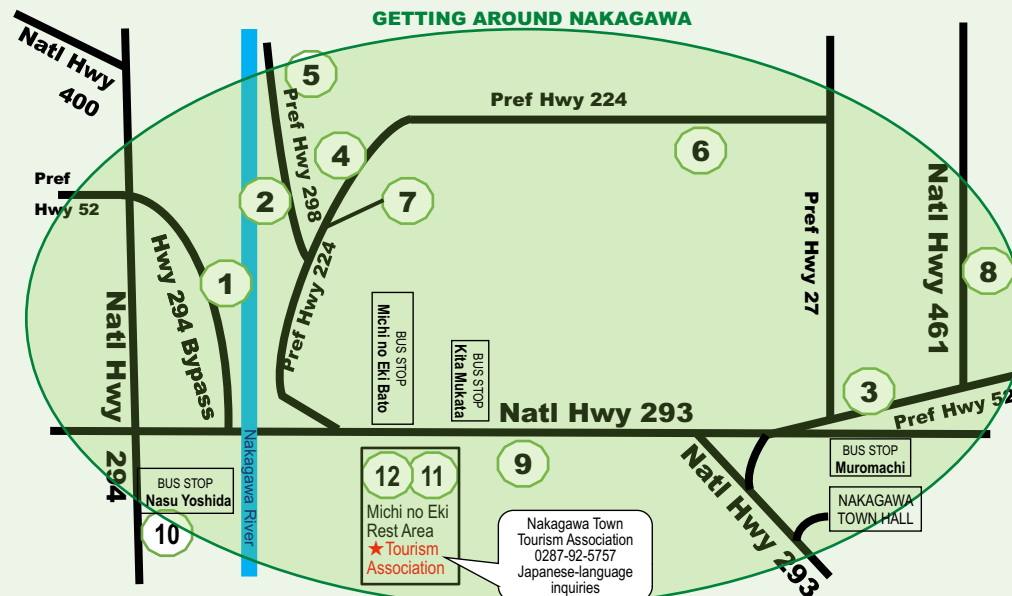
### By Car

- from south: Tohoku Exp. to Yaita IC, south on National Hwy 4 (1 min), east on Prefectural Hwy 161 →48→52 (30 min),
- from north: Tohoku Exp. to Nishinasuno-Shiobara IC, southeast on Natl Hwy 400 'The Rice Line' (40 min)

### By Train+ Bus

- Easy Route: JR Utsunomiya Line Utsunomiya-Ujijie (16 min), Toya Bus Ujijie - Nakagawa (50 min)
- Scenic Route: Utsunomiya Line Utsunomiya-Hoshakuji (10-13 min), JR Karasuyama Line Hoshakuji-Karasuyama (35-45 min), Community Bus Karasuyama - Nakagawa (35 min)
- from north: JR Utsunomiya Line Nishinasuno - Nakagawa (45 min) Toya Bus

## GETTING AROUND NAKAGAWA



There's no doubt it is easiest to get around Nakagawa if you have your own wheels, but you can get around by public transport with some careful planning. You can reach the *Michi no Eki Rest Area* (Restaurant Bato (11), Mumo Ice Cream (12), Tourism Center), *Asuka Sushi* (9) and the *Bato Hiroshige Museum* (3) by either Toya or Community Bus. The Community Bus also stops by *Cucina toto* (10) on its way to and from JR Karasuyama Station. From the *Michi no Eki* bus stop, *Kirigatake* (7) and the *MOB Museum* (4) would be a 2.3 km, slightly uphill walk, *Fujita Ceramics* (6) 5.5 km. If you have plans to stay overnight, *Isami-kan* (2) may be able to pick you up at the *Michi no Eki*.

We are working on new ideas to help you get around, in the meanwhile the Tourism Association will do all it can to help!



Nakagawa Town's Mascot 'Naka-chan' is sorry these reasons have kept you from visiting us... until now...?

# 3 reasons many travelers don't visit Nakagawa

1. The nearest train station is more than a half hour away by bus.
2. Nakagawa is not listed in overseas guidebooks.
3. People in Nakagawa aren't used to international travelers.

## Too much to do in Nakagawa? Really!

We aren't only known as a hot springs town, but we have **two different kinds of hot springs waters** percolating up for us at nearly a dozen day visit hot springs and overnight inns.

We aren't only known as a museum town, yet we have **top museums in Japan in three different genres**—ukiyo-e art, alternative art, and children's storybook art.

We can offer **two different hands-on experiences with Japanese culture**—you can roll Japanese buckwheat noodles (soba) from scratch and eat your hard work, and you can make your own pottery—even both **within an easy-going couple of hours** of activity.

The whole town opens up to welcome visitors during the **Hana no Kaze festival** in the Spring, or you can join in rice planting/harvesting in the Spring and Autumn at our **Homestay Weekend**.

Are you a fan of local Japanese cuisine? Try to find **hot springs pufferfish, wild boar noodles and cherry blossom ice cream** (yum, yum!) anywhere else, let alone in the same town!

Just want a sit down meal? How about **sushi by a former New York City sushi chef**, or **Italian food** by a young couple who gained their culinary **experience in both Sienna and Parma, Italy**? Our Restaurant Bato serves **local fare** and **has a menu in English**, while Mumo no Sato offers those wonderful ice cream flavors.



## Hot Springs

**Mahoroba no Yu** ① (*number in map on back*)  
[www.geocities.co.jp/SilkRoad-Ocean/2586/](http://www.geocities.co.jp/SilkRoad-Ocean/2586/)  
 Taps a hot spring aquifer on the west side of the Nakagawa River for continuously running hot springs water at this day use hot springs center.

**Isami-kan** ②  
[www.isamikan.com/](http://www.isamikan.com/)  
 In the Bato Hot Springs district overlooking the Nakagawa River for great sunset views from the east bank. For atmosphere, local food and drink and hospitality, start or end your trip to Nakagawa with a night's stay HERE!

## World-class Museums

**Bato Hiroshige Museum of Art** ③  
[www.hiroshige.bato.tochigi.jp/english](http://www.hiroshige.bato.tochigi.jp/english)  
 A museum that's as famous as the woodblock prints & traditional artwork it houses! Designed by world-renowned architect Kuma Kengo to host the best of Hiroshige's ukiyo-e art, including his extremely rare hand paintings.



**MOB museum of alternative art** ④  
[www.mobmuseum.org](http://www.mobmuseum.org)  
 The artwork here makes you realize a handicap can be a gift. Incredibly innovative work from around the world displayed in an old Japanese elementary schoolhouse!

**Iwamura Kazuo Picture Book Museum** ⑤  
[www.ehonnooka.com](http://www.ehonnooka.com)  
 The infectious warm and fuzzy artwork of Eric Carle's Japanese friend set in the natural scenery of his top-selling children's books. His works include the unique, bilingual *Doko iku no*—**To see my friend**, co-authored/illustrated with Carle!

## Hands-on Experiences

**Fujita Ceramics Center & Toyukan Hands-on Pottery Classes** ⑥

[koisagoyaki.co.jp](http://koisagoyaki.co.jp)  
 Unlike the pottery of some of its more famous neighbors, Koisago Pottery is made exclusively of local pottery soil. Shop at Fujitas' for direct from the artist prices, or fashion your own pottery at Toyukan next door.



**Kirigatake Local Mtn. Culture Center** ⑦

[www.tochigiji.or.jp/spot/4390/](http://www.tochigiji.or.jp/spot/4390/)

**Gozen-Iwa Souvenir Ctr & Restaurant** ⑧

[www.gozeniwa.com/](http://www.gozeniwa.com/)  
 Both places serve great soba noodles in restaurants open to the outdoors, but can teach you to make your own!

## Special Events

**Hana no Kaze Matsuri**

<http://hana-kaze.net/event.html>

April 29 – May 5

A truly homemade Nakagawa festival. Special events sponsored by residents in more than 50 (!!) locations throughout town. Concerts, food tastings, local craft displays, hands-on crafts and sales. Get to know our people and culture up close.

**Homestay Weekend in Nakagawa**

[sgaku@town.tochigi-nakagawa.lg.jp](mailto:sgaku@town.tochigi-nakagawa.lg.jp)  
 one Saturday each in early May/October

Our homestay weekend is primarily for foreign residents of Tochigi, but you may be able to join the daytime spring rice planting or autumn rice harvest. Applications accepted the previous month. E-mail for info.



## Fine Dining

**Sushi Asuka** ⑨

0287-92-0550

Oka-san single-handedly keeps up with sushi orders from the sushi bar, party rooms and dining tables, and he is experienced at making sushi for first-timers and vegetarians! Give him a couple of days' notice and he can even serve you Nakagawa's premium-branded hot springs pufferfish (poison not included!).

**Cucina toto** ⑩

[mangiatoto.exblog.jp](http://mangiatoto.exblog.jp)

For those who know that Italian food is more than tomatoes and cheese. The owners prepare fresh, local and often organic ingredients with Italian cuisine's care for bringing out the best in each ingredient's flavour.



**Michi no Eki – Restaurant Bato** ⑪

<http://michinoeki-guide.ciao.jp/bato2.html>

Located in the Michi no Eki Highway Rest Area, this restaurant is the easiest place to try out the town's Shishimaru-brand wild boar meat, buckwheat noodles and other local delicacies.

**Michi no Eki –**

**Mumo no Sato Ice Cream Kobo** ⑫

In the Tourism Association building next to the restaurant, **Mumo no Sato** serves up more than a dozen unique and amazingly delicious ice cream flavours such as tomato, Japanese mugwort, and the extra-popular cherry blossom (in the spring), as well as yummy standards chocolate chip, vanilla, cookies and cream, and *matcha* (green tea).

This is only a sampler of things to do in Nakagawa. For more info, we have limited copies available of the 64-page English-language guide to Nakagawa, *Nakagawa Town, Tochigi – A Guide to our World-Class Art and Small Town Heart*. E-mail the Nakagawa Tourism Association ([nakagawa-kanko@nactv.ne.jp](mailto:nakagawa-kanko@nactv.ne.jp)) or the Nakagawa Town Tourism Section ([kankou@town.tochigi-nakagawa.lg.jp](mailto:kankou@town.tochigi-nakagawa.lg.jp))

